Course Description

One of the oldest U.S. foreign policy concerns was the method and employment of the U.S. military. Since World War Two and the ensuing Cold War, U.S. military policy has been a prominent element of American Foreign Policy. With the events of September 11th and the ensuing invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, there has been a particular focus on how the United States formulates and implements its security policy. This class will provide an overview of many of the players in this process.

The topics covered will include:

- The President
- The Secretary of Defense
- The Joint Chiefs of Staff
- The Combatant Commanders
- The Individual Branches of the Military
- U.S. Nuclear Weapons and Forces
- The Department of Homeland Security
- Defense Contracting and Foreign Military Equipment Sales
- Defense Acquisitions Process
- Defense Budgeting Process
- Domestic and International Basing

It is important to note that this course is separate and distinct from United States Foreign Policy (SIS – 682). Some topics have been intentionally diminished (such as the role of Congress and the Department of State) in order to separate the materials covered in both this course and in United States Foreign Policy.
Required Books


Additional Required Course Materials

*Articles by various authors as specified in this syllabus.* These articles will be available through the course “Blackboard” website.

*A reputable daily newspaper, such as the Washington Post or the New York Times.* It is important to remain knowledgeable of current events regarding defense policy, and reading a reputable newspaper should help maintain that information.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>99.5 – 92.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5 – 92.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.5 – 89.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.5 – 87.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5 – 83.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5 – 79.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5 – 77.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5 – 72.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59.5 – 69.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 59.5</td>
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Standards of Performance Evaluation

**A:** Exemplary work on papers and examinations in fulfillment of course requirements; effective class participation; demonstration of reading all assignments.

**B:** Superior work (written and oral) in fulfillment of course requirements.

**C:** Satisfactory work (written and oral) in fulfillment of course requirements.

**D:** Assigned work is not satisfactory or not completed.

**F:** Failure to meet minimum course standards on exams, written assignments, class participation, and other course requirements. Additionally, student fails to meet minimum attendance requirements.
Evaluation Summary

Group Projects: 20% of your final course grade on October 13th and November 17th
Research Paper: 25% of your final course grade due on December 1st
Final Exam: 25% of your final course grade due by December 8th
Participation: 20% of your final course grade throughout the session
Discussion Questions: 10% of your final course grade throughout the session

Evaluation Details

Research Paper: The writing assignment for this class is to write a clear, well-argued paper on some element of American national security policy. This assignment will be between 15 and 18 pages in length (using 12-point, double-spaced fonts), is due at the beginning of class on Monday, December 1st, and is worth twenty-five percent of your final course grade. There will also be two required preliminary assignments for this paper. First, each student must have the topic approved by the professor by October 1st. Second, each student must submit a draft of their literature review section (which will be approximately four to five pages in length) by November 1st. Further details for this assignment will be made available on the course Blackboard website.

Group Projects: During this class, students will be divided into four working groups for the course of the semester. Groups will be assigned on Monday, September 8th, and each group will be involved in two activities during the course of the semester. The first group assignment is to give a 20 minute briefing (followed by a 10 minute question and answer period) on the challenges facing one of the four military branches (Army, Navy, Marines, & Air Force) on Monday, October 13th. The second group assignment will be participation in a defense budgeting simulation on Monday, November 17th. Peer reviews of your groups will be done immediately after the Group Presentations in October and again right before the end of the semester.

Final Exam: There will be one exam for this course covering the readings, lecture materials, and other points of interest that can arise during our studies here. The exam will be essay format, and test your ability to take the materials we covered in class and create a coherent argument. The exam will be distributed at the end of class on Monday, December 1st (the last regular day of class) as is due no later than Monday, December 8th.

Participation: Participation is critical for your successful performance in this course. You should come to class with all the materials read for that particular day, as well as any questions that you have regarding those materials. Students will gain participation points for answering questions, providing intelligent, useful insight into discussions, meeting with the professor during his office hours, and otherwise making positive contributions to the overall academic environment. However, students will lose participation points if they are disruptive to the classroom environment (ringing cellular telephones, lack of decorum in discussions, etc.), coming to class unprepared, or otherwise detracting from the learning experiences of fellow students. The key to a high participation grade is consistency: participate each and every class period and for the duration of each class session. An initial, non-binding participation grade for every student will be posted on the course Blackboard website at the midway point of the course in order to keep students apprised of their standing in regards to participation. Additionally, your participation grade is somewhat tied to your attendance grade; students who are not attending class sessions are not present to participate in the discussions, thereby reducing their final participation (and therefore their overall course) grade.
Discussion Questions: A separate but related component of participation this semester is discussion questions. As you peruse through each week’s readings, students should be generating questions, concerns, or thoughts from the readings that they want to focus on for greater discussion in class. On Blackboard, there will be a discussion forum established for each week, often broken down by chapter or article. Students should post a discussion question they want the class to address by midnight the day before a particular class. Just before class, the professor will examine all the discussion questions posted and generate a list to bring to class that night. The expectation for an “A” in discussion questions is that each and every student will submit an interesting, insightful and unique discussion question almost every week. An initial, non-binding grade for every student will be posted on Blackboard at the midway point of the course in order to keep students apprised of their standing regarding these discussion questions.

Attendance: While not directly included in your grade at the onset of this class, attendance is an important component of your course performance. Student attendance is mandatory for all class sessions and will be taken each and every class period. You are allowed two (2) absences during the course of the semester without penalty; I do not differentiate between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. For each class period missed after the second class period, you will receive a full letter-grade reduction in your final course grade. It is critical for you to keep accurate track of how many class periods you have missed; I do not provide any official warnings regarding attendance once you have exhausted the second (and therefore last) of your two permitted absences. Missing or late major graded assignments (exams, group projects, or papers) will always require written, third-party documentation in order to schedule make-up work.

Please note: Issues of national security policy are areas of study which requires dynamic thinking and the potential for nimble reactions to unanticipated events. Thus, this syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.
Course Calendar

All readings should be completed before the class they are assigned. Discussion questions related to these readings should be posted to Blackboard by 7:00 AM the day of class they are assigned for.

August 25th: Introductions


September 8th: The Context of American National Security Policy


September 15th: The President


September 22nd: The Secretary of Defense


September 29th: The National Security Council (Focus on JCS and IC)


October 6th: The Combatant Commanders


October 13th: Challenges to Individual Branches

Group Presentations – No Assigned Readings

October 20th: U.S. Nuclear Weapons


October 27th: Department of Homeland Security


November 3rd: Defense Contracting & Foreign Equipment Sales


November 10th: Defense Acquisitions – Process and Challenges


November 17th: Defense Budgeting – Process, Challenges, and In-Class Simulation


November 24th: Domestic and International Military Basing


December 1st: Conclusions & Papers are due at the Beginning of Class


December 8th: Final Exam Due